

## **Beach Commission Minutes- Meeting of 09/08/2015**

**Attending: Rian Wilkinson, Bill Seiple, Henry Pine, Dave Leys, Gary Lapidas, Charlene Cirillo, John Ceglaski, John Crimmins, Will Cronin, Antone Viveiros**

**Open Meeting 4:30**

**Approved Minutes of May 8, 2015- No changes**

### **A. Brief Overview Summer 2015**

- **Beach Season-** the beach parking revenues were record setting- Approx \$1,500,000.00

- **Beach Capacity-** The committee felt that beach capacity, like a room capacity, is very important for patron enjoyment, as well as, safety. The committee felt that the beaches had reached that level when considering the lot capacity, walkers, and an increasing number of beach-goers being dropped off because they could not gain access to the lots. Of particular concern is the area from the Rock lots to the main beach, known as “No Man’s Land”. During peak periods this area was very crowded and is lightly lifeguarded and has limited bathroom facilities.

- **Beach Facilities-** On several occasions, the beach building was severely taxed. The toilets failed, causing back-ups, Porta-johns were available, but, also, were compromised. As discussed, in the past, there was also a need for more showers and concession space.

### **B. Reasons for the increased crowds**

- **Best weather in years-** almost every weekend was “perfect”
- **Outstanding condition of the beaches.** The DPW did an incredible job of preparing and maintaining the beaches. The staff, also, does

**an excellent job of cleaning the beaches, even with the record crowds.**

- The ease of traveling to the beaches, even as far away as Taunton and Brockton.**
- Large number of hotel/motel rooms in the area. Also, the increased summer rentals and vacation houses, especially in the Easton Point area**
- Light surf makes the beaches very family friendly.**

**C. Parking Strategies- Similar beaches, including: Wellfleet, Falmouth, Yarmouth and the Mass DCR. Most have resident and non-resident passes, and all practice First Come First Serve. There are no resident parking preferences according to the various representatives that were contacted.**

#### **D. Parking Logistics**

- Available Spaces Second Beach (all lots) 1700 spaces**
- Available Spaces Third Beach – approx 185 spaces**
- All Total- 1875 space**

**E. Pass Gate- There is some confusion concerning the Pass Gate. It is available to All pass holders- resident and non-resident. This past summer, many residents were concerned because this gate was closed by 10:00. This had to be done to avoid “grid-lock”, when the combined ticket sales of both gates, exceeds the available spaces. By closing the pass gate, management can control the numbers of tickets sold. With two gates open, it becomes impossible and patrons will park in any available space, including emergency lanes. Bill Seiple, former beach manager, gave a very clear explanation**

concerning the co-ordination of the two gates. It should be noted that, in the past, it was unusual to close the gate before 10:00. However, as the summer progressed, patrols were arriving earlier to obtain a space. On several occasions, the pass gate had to be closed during the week, as well. Conclusion: The large crowds this summer resulted in early pass gate closures, but, on the whole, the system is time tested and works as well as can be expected, considering the demand.

#### **F. Total Pass sales and daily ticket purchases**

- Resident- 5 year average 2058, Second car- 1232, Total 3290
- Non- Resident- 2116
- Total 4174 / Total including second car resident- 5406
- Third Beach only- Resident- 2 year average 1000

\*\*\* Daily passes SECOND BEACH- biggest Days on weekends- 7/5/15...1800 & 7/12/15...1982

Note: These numbers actually exceed the number of available spaces of 1700. The biggest weekdays- 7/6/15...1441 & 7/31/15...1524.

\*\*\* Daily passes THIRD BEACH- Biggest Day on weekends- 7/12/15...139, weekdays- 7/13/15...142.

Approximate spaces at boat ramp beach- 100.

Conclusion- Second Beach Weekend- there are, potentially, over 7000 patrons who have passes or are willing to pay the daily fee to park (1700 spaces). Third Beach Weekend- Passes and Daily Fee- approximately 6406 (175 spaces).

G. Solutions- There was a lengthy discussion concerning possible

**solutions to the resident parking situation.**

- Having bikes available at an auxiliary parking lot. There would, probably, not be a significant number due to the problems transporting beach gear.**
- Trolleys etc, from an off-beach site. This has been tried in the past with little interest. Also the buses would be caught in the same long traffic lines. Finally, they would be a factor in the “Beach Capacity” numbers- adding numbers without services or space.**
- Reserved resident spaces. The spaces would be filled by the residents who arrived before 10:00, therefore they would be of little help.**
- One resident suggested “Disney Parking” to avoid some of the pass gate problems. This is directed parking without concern where patrons would prefer to park. The committee felt this would not be accepted since most beach goers have preferred areas where they like to sit.**
- Limit non-resident passes. This would have an adverse affect on town finances and would have to be a town council decision. The BC did not think this is a viable option due to tax ramifications.**
- Social media- A system that would notify patrons of lot closures etc. Will Cronin felt there would be reasonable administrative problems with this.**
- Next spring, initiate a public service campaign advising patrons that a beach pass does not guarantee a parking space. Also, offer suggestions on how to avoid long lines.**

**H. Final Recommendation: The beach commission will make a final**

**recommendation at It's 10/13/15 meeting.**

**Meeting Adjourned 5:45 pm.**